

Top Secret



DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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PANAMA: [Anti-US demonstrations may develop this weekend following US refusal to return an arrested Panamanian official.]

[The arrested man has played a significant role in providing safe transportation through Panama of vast quantities of heroin and cocaine en route to the US. Nevertheless, the Panamanian Government is publicly committed to gain the release of the prisoner.]

[General Torrijos is aware of the emotional and nationalistic potential of the case and the eagerness of the students to take to the streets in protest against the US. He may be tempted therefore to give the students their head. Even if the government does not "unleash the students," a spontaneous eruption is possible when news of the US decision to fly him out tomorrow to face trial in Texas becomes known.]

[A number of Panamanian officials including President Lakas are urging restraint and economic considerations may temper Torrijos' reaction. Large-scale demonstrations would jeopardize loans needed to alleviate a serious budgetary difficulty. Riots would also risk the loss of tourist revenue from the pre-lenten Carnival festivities now underway. Still, the government might find it necessary to take some step such as expelling a member of the US Embassy in order to save face.]

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NOTES

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USSR-BERLIN: Yesterday's session of the four-power ambassadorial talks produced no significant developments. Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov again commented negatively on some aspects of the Western draft for a possible Berlin agreement, and again stressed the need to include in any agreement limitations on the activity of West German political organizations in West Berlin. Meanwhile, in a Pravda article yesterday, the Soviets for the first time publicly alluded to unspecified "new difficulties" in the event of failure to reach an agreement

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